

# **Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities**

## **Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 24, 2002**

### **Minutes**

I. **Attendance:** Sheila Thompson, Matt Hart, Curt Vincente, Wade Gibbs, Mary Thatcher, and Helen Koehn (past chairperson).

II. **Minutes:** There was no quorum because W. Gibbs and M. Thatcher were the only current committee members present, but the minutes of the meeting of March 26, 2002 were approved by consensus.

### III. **New Business:**

a) Election of Chairperson: W. Gibbs agreed to become Acting Chairperson.

b) Secretary: M. Thatcher agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

c) Meeting dates for 2002/2003: Not yet set because new committee members may need to be consulted.

d) Membership: The committee has lost several long-standing members. We shall miss: Eva Lederer (for many years the chairperson), Lloyd Decker, and Carolyn Stocking who are all recently deceased; Gunnar Wengel who has resigned for health reasons; and Helen Koehn who has undertaken other civic responsibilities but gave us thoughtful and helpful leadership while she was chairperson.

- e) Community Center Proposed Membership Rates: Helen Koehn raised the question of discounted fees for persons with disabilities and suggested that a definition of family with a disabled member might be considered. This sounds good but there are already established standards for fee reductions for town services. S. Thompson will have contact with the Social Services Advisory Committee and the Recreation Advisory Committee whose members will be discussing definitions of categories and fees to suggest possibilities for action by the Town Council.
- f) Mansfield Downtown Partnership/Role of Committee: The role of this committee and its relationship to the Downtown Partnership need to be clarified. The committee hopes to have a role similar to what it has with the Planning & Zoning Commission so that plans for new building may be reviewed to ensure access for disabled persons. W. Gibbs will contact the director.
- g) Mansfield Website: The new website, [www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org), was described by M. Hart and C. Vincente with a report that this website will contain copious information on town business – reports, minutes of committees, calendars, etc. and will also have interactive capabilities for registrations, sign-ups, etc.
- h) Addition on Montessori School on Bassetts Bridge Road: Helen Koehn reported that John deWolf had examined the plans and recommended that the parking spaces be paved and placed closer to the building.
- i) Annual Report: Helen Koehn will prepare the annual report for the committee.
- j) UConn Fireworks: The unannounced fireworks for freshman welcoming ceremonies caused some problems for disabled persons, especially one with a guide dog. In the future the University plans to alert its neighbors ahead of time.
- k) Natchaug Hospital: Application for an addition has been made to the Planning & Zoning Commission and forwarded to this committee for review.

l) Agency Funding Requests: S. Thompson reminded the committee that the annual review of requests will be on the coming agenda for recommendation on funding to the Town Council for consideration and decision. Mary Thatcher will act as liaison to review Dial-a-Ride request when received. Other agencies not yet assigned to committee members.

### **III. Old Business:**

a) Post Office Box: The need for a drive-by mail drop has not yet been met. Discussions continue.

b) Mansfield Hollow Accessible Ramp: There is still the problem of the need for a key to locked gate.

c) Mansfield Hollow Accessible Restrooms: Plans are in progress to make these restrooms accessible. The committee needs to check on the situation in about six months.

d) Plan of Conservation and Development: No recent news. W. Gibbs will inquire.

e) Regional Transportation Committee: M. Thatcher reported that material from the questionnaires is being compiled so that analysis may be ready by the October meeting.

f) Commission on Aging: M. Thatcher reported on a discussion of a disaster plan for Jensens and the need there for a generator. Suggestion was made of a Small Cities Grant.

g) Lift for Pool in Community Center: C. Vincente reported that the lift to be used will have a capacity up to 400 pounds, will be portable but anchored in place.

h) M. Hart thanked Helen Koehn for her service as chairperson.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

The next meeting will be October 22 at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Thatcher